

Acknowledgement of Letters

1589. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters received by the Government from public during July to September, 1991;

(b) the number out of them acknowledged and replied finally;

(c) the reasons for not acknowledging/replying the remaining letters; and

(d) the number of letter still pending action and the steps taken to expedite the action thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) 9909

(b) Out of the numbers indicated in (a) above final replies were sent in 6909 cases and acknowledgement issued in 2447 cases.

(c) Some of the letters have been forwarded to the field units for acknowledgement and final reply direct. In cases where a final reply is to be sent by the Telecom Commission the reports/information have been called for from the field units.

(d) 3000. These cases are being pursued vigorously for giving a final reply.

Fire in Jhuggi Cluster of Govindpuri

1590. SHRI JEEWAN SHRMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFARIS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the causes of the fire in Govindpuri Jhuggi cluster has since been established;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (c). The opinion of the experts of Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL), who visited the site, is awaited.

Telecom Development of Jajpur Sub-Division in Cuttack

1591. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government brought out a comprehensive plan for telecom development of Jajpur sub-Division in Cuttack District with regard to (i) install on T-43 Trunk Board at Jajpur, (ii) Extend STD facility to Jajpur and (iii) provide 137 long distance telephones in villages besides conversion of Manual and Automatic Exchanges into electronic exchanges;

(b) if so, progress made so far, the reasons for the delay and target date of completion of the work;

(c) the steps taken to secure the required land for Jajpur Telephone Exchange and to provide a DET Office at the Sub-Divisional Headquarters; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken to cause a proper telecom development?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). (i) Yes, Sir, one T-43 Trunk Board and the STD facility is planned to be commissioned at Jajpur by March, 92

(ii) As regards provision of long distance telephone connections and conversion of Manual and Automatic exchange into Electronic exchanges, the information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) Government of Orissa has agreed to allot a piece of land measuring 2.15 acres for housing telephone exchange at Jajpur.

At present the post of DET is not justified for Jajpur. However an Asstt. Engineer has been posted at Jajpur.

(d) It is planned to convert all the exchanges into electronic exchanges and open public telephones to all the quarters of Gram Panchayat progressively.

PIB Office at Aurangabad

1592. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for establishing a new office of the Press information Bureau at Aurangabad in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the proposal and arrived at a decision; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The opening of new PIB offices depends on the size of the 8th plan and availability of financial resources.

Expansion of Telecom facilities in Hilly Areas

1593. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive plan has been formulated for the expansion of telecommunication facilities in inaccessible hilly and desert areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made of proposed to be made in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has made a plan to provide telephone facility to all Panchayat villages including inaccessible hilly and desert areas in the country. 12,000 such villages have been planned to be provided with telephone facility during 1991-92.

(c) Out of total of 2, 28, 920 village panchayats, 47,167 have been provided with telephone facility as on 31.10.1991. The remaining village panchayats have been planned to be provided with telephone facility by 31st March, 1995.

[Translation]

Assistance to SCs/STs Candidates for competitive Examination

1594. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4411 on August 26, 1991 and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has been collected; and